

# WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Wellbeing Policy Development Panel of Broadland District Council, held on Wednesday 2 February 2022 at 6pm at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich.**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillors: S Prutton (Chairman), A Crotch, R Foulger, E Laming, M Murrell, J Neesam, D Roper and N Shaw

**Other Members present:** Councillor F Whymark (ex officio)

**Officers in Attendance:** The Assistant Director of Individuals and Families (M Pursehouse), the Policy and Partnerships Officer (V Parsons), the Health and Wellbeing Programme Manager (K Strandoo) and the Democratic Services Officer (L Arthurton)

## **49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE NO 8**

No declarations of interest were made.

## **50 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Starling (with D Roper appointed substitute) and C Ryman-Tubb.

## **51 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Wellbeing Panel meeting held on 6 October 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

## **52 SOUTH NORFOLK AND BROADLAND ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY 2022-2025**

The Policy and Partnerships Officer introduced the report which presented the draft South Norfolk and Broadland Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2025, which would shortly be published for consultation. This would allow the public to understand the performance of Broadland and South Norfolk Councils in

tackling rough sleeping, whilst being able to provide input on the proposed priorities and actions that would form the new Strategy. The Panel noted that the finalised draft would be presented to Cabinet for final approval and adoption in March 2022

Officers further explained that local authorities had a statutory duty under the Homelessness Act 2002 to publish Homelessness Strategies at least once every five years. Following the publication of the Government's Rough Sleeper Strategy in 2018, it was required that all new Homelessness Strategies needed to include a specific focus on rough sleeping. The four key themes which appeared in the Strategy were:

- Prevention – linking in with the Early Help Hub to support residents in the early stages
- Intervention – offering support and help to residents
- Recovery – making sure the Strategy promoted long lasting change
- Systems – making sure they were all working correctly

The Policy and Partnerships Officer explained that following approval by both Councils, officers would start drafting the delivery plan to implement the actions in the Strategy.

In response to a question concerning the number of rough sleepers in the Broadland area, officers explained that cases were rare and were resolved quickly when reported. A greater number of rough sleepers were found in the city area. Broadland residents sleeping rough in the Norwich area could be tracked by consulting with Norwich City Council to identify numbers.

In response to a query about rough sleeping in the District and temporary accommodation and whether there was adequate resource to tackle this, the Assistant Director for Individuals and Families confirmed that there was an issue with moving people on from temporary accommodation as fewer private rental properties were available and social housing was under pressure.

In answer to a query on empty homes within the District, officers explained that the Empty Homes Policy which came before the Panel last year sought to bring empty properties back into use. Part of the Policy allowed the Council to monitor empty properties for seven years, if necessary.

Members noted that funding bids were currently being submitted to Government to secure funds for the Rough Sleeper Team at the Council. In response to a question regarding the proposed details of the bid, the Policy and Partnerships Officer explained that intervention and prevention to keep numbers down featured strongly in the bid. Alongside this, there was a focus on the support the Council could offer to help with alcohol and drug issues. Although the District had a low number of homeless residents, officers were confident in the bid put forward to Government being successful.

In respect of capacity within the current temporary accommodation provision, the Assistant Director for Individuals and Families explained that work was being undertaken to collect evidence, which would feed into a report to come before members at a later date. The report would detail options which the Council could take forward, including the possibility of purchasing properties to expand temporary accommodation capacity. The Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing added that there was full support for acquiring additional buildings for temporary accommodation, but work needed to be completed to provide evidence and background details.

The Chairman asked for clarification around the consultation process and timeframe. Officers explained that the consultation would commence on 7 February until 20 February 2022 with promotion through the press and social media posts containing the survey link. Members also noted that work had also been undertaken to create a survey that also targeted previous users of the services.

The Panel noted that work was being explored to see how the Council could provide further support to individuals within vulnerable groups who found themselves homeless.

In response to a question on the help the Council was receiving from housing associations, officers explained that dialogue was ongoing with housing associations on how the Council could best utilise their resources to help residents. It was also confirmed that housing associations were required to ask permission from the Council before selling any properties. Members were also informed that there were some cases where houses were in unsuitable areas and the money received from the sale of the properties would have a greater impact when invested in other areas.

The Chairman thanked officers for their report, and it was then unanimously,

**RESOLVED To recommend to Cabinet,**

to note and approve the appended draft South Norfolk and Broadland Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020-2025.

## **53 DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM STRUCTURES**

The Health and Wellbeing Programme Manager introduced the report, which set out the emerging new structures for the delivery of NHS services and outlined the process for revising the Council's joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to take account of the changes.

Members' attention was drawn to section 2.11 of the report which outlined the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System emerging structures, which showed that the Local Health and Wellbeing Partnerships would use district council boundaries as building blocks for the Integrated Care System.

The Health and Wellbeing Programme Manager concluded by summarising the key aims and progression of the report. This included working closely with members of the Health and Wellbeing Partnerships to enable the Councils to proactively contribute to the health and wellbeing of Broadland/South Norfolk residents and to be more influential in local health and social care policy. With knowledge of their local populations the Councils could also take this opportunity to become a place leader in prevention and tackling health inequalities.

Members also noted that the Strategy would also be revised to include the impact the Covid-19 pandemic had on the local population.

In response to a query regarding whether neighbouring Councils were developing similar strategies and if so, was there a possibility of collaboration between them, the Assistant Director of Individuals and Families confirmed that dialogue was ongoing across Norfolk regarding the development of strategies.

The Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing endorsed the report adding that the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy in the context of the new integrated care structures was a good opportunity for the Council to strengthen resources, as had been seen with the recent pandemic. He drew members' attention to the achievements of the District Direct team which worked directly with wider health organisations. Officers concurred with this approach and confirmed that future policy would allow the District Council's voice to be heard amongst wider health organisations.

Members of the Panel noted that past relations within the wider health organisations had been difficult, but they were confident that the Health and Wellbeing Partnership would help create stronger connections for the future.

In answer to a query around the next steps for the Strategy, officers explained that they were currently mapping the process out, but emphasised that members would be involved throughout the process via workshops. The expected completion date had been set for the autumn, and officers were confident that this target would be achieved.

The Chairman thanked officers for their report and it was;

## **RESOLVED**

to note the process for revising the Councils' Health and Wellbeing Strategy

and the upcoming structural changes to Norfolk's health care systems driven by the Health and Social Care Bill.

(The meeting concluded at 6:53pm)

---

Chairman